

Sweet summertime

School is out for the summer! And if you're like most kids, you're probably already bored. But, there is plenty to keep you busy these next two months. Make some goals. How many books do you want to read? Can you job shadow someone for a few days to see if you like their profession? How about looking for scholarships? Use your time off as an opportunity to check some big things off your list.

Remember Me

SAT Test Date

June 4

ACT Test Date

June 11

June is the last month 2016 graduates can take the ACT or SAT in order to qualify for some scholarships, including Bright Flight, for the fall 2016 semester. Do your best by utilizing these [ACT test tips](#) and preparing with [SAT](#) and [ACT](#) prep resources.

Did you know?

Jobs requiring education beyond high school make up nearly all job growth in the last two decades. According to Georgetown Center on Education and the Workforce, jobs requiring only a high school diploma or less are disappearing.

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High School Students

- Just because you're not in school doesn't mean you should stop learning. Set a goal for how many books or pages you want to read this summer, plan fun day trips to learn about local and state history, or consider (supervised) science experiments and nature hikes or walks.
- Did you know college is more important now than ever before? By 2018, approximately 60 percent of jobs in Missouri will require some form of [education beyond high school](#). Start researching potential jobs now to see what kind of extra schooling you'll need to make your dreams a reality. You can also begin to research any schools that interest you.
- Job shadowing, a part-time job and summer camps also can help you discover your interests. [Make the most of your summer](#) by getting off the couch.

Class of 2016

- You graduated! So what's next? You've probably been asked this a hundred times, but that doesn't make it any less important. Have you made a final [decision](#) on your future? If you haven't applied to college yet, you aren't too late. Many colleges take late admissions. Even if you can't get in this fall, finalize plans to enroll for spring.
- Working a part-time job this summer? By [saving](#) a portion of your summer earnings, you could offset some of your college expenses. Create a [plan](#) for your school expenses and [make smart financial decisions](#) to stay on track.
- Did you receive a financial aid award letter? Be sure to accept the scholarships and grants first. Then only accept the loans you need. You can turn down all or part of a student loan offered to you. Remember, you have to pay loans back, plus interest.

College Students

- Use your summer to learn about things you don't have time for during the school year. Study a foreign language, take up a new hobby, start that blog you've been wanting to write. Be productive!
- Take advantage of summer employment or internship opportunities to help with finances, get real-world experience and begin to build your resume.
- Keep track of your student loans at [NSLDS.ed.gov](#) and be sure to only borrow what you need. Remember, you can turn down all or part of a student loan offered to you. Visit your financial aid office for help. Know now what your [payments](#) could look like upon graduation.
- If you are a recipient of [Bright Flight](#) or the [A+ Scholarship](#), be sure to check the renewal requirements for grade point average, number of required credit hours, etc.

FAFSA Updates!

FAFSA corrections must be made by August 1 for the Access Missouri grant. Go to [FAFSA.gov](#) to update your information as soon as possible.

Parents

- Summer is a great time to get out of the house and let your community be the classroom. Spend your days off helping your children discover new things.
- If you have students going off to college this fall, help them [make final plans](#) for summer orientation, school deposits, transportation, fall expenses, etc.
- Summer is also a good time to learn about budgeting. Give your kids real-life experience. Have them plan one day of your vacation or save a portion of their earnings from chores or a part-time job. Teach them about creating a spending and savings plan.